

New law dedicates all 3.97¢ of the state's sales and use tax collected on hotel room rentals in Evangeline Parish to the Evangeline Visitor Enterprise Fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the year shall remain in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earnings shall be deposited into the state general fund.

New law provides that monies in the fund are subject to annual appropriation and shall be used by the Evangeline Parish Tourist Commission for promoting and enhancing tourism activities.

Effective July 1, 1999.

Existing law provides for the Louisiana Tourism Promotion District, a statewide taxing district, with the authority to levy a sales and use tax at a rate not to exceed 3/100 of 1 cent.

Existing law provides for the tax proceeds, not to exceed \$16 million annually, to be used for the costs of collection and for tourism promotion by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism through the purchase of out-of-state media advertisement and other tourism promotion by the department, except in-state media advertising.

Prior law provided that proceeds of the tax in excess of \$16 million annually were transferred annually to the state general fund to assist in reducing and eliminating cash flow deficits, state general fund operating deficits, and for other state general fund purposes.

New law increases the amount of the proceeds that are available to the department. The available proceeds are increased by \$500,000 per fiscal year for three years beginning with FY 2000-20001. The increased proceeds available to the department can be used solely for purchase of out-of-state advertising. Any excess will continue to be transferred to the state general fund.

This provision is effective July 1, 2000 and is repealed on July 1, 2003.

(Amends R.S. 51:1286(C)(2) and (3); Adds R.S. 47:302.48, 322.39, and 332.45 and R.S. 51:1286(C)(4); Repeals R.S. 51:1286(C)(2))